ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF B'NAI B'RITH

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UNDER SECRETARY
24 1955
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

June 23, 1955

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684A.87/6-2355

The Honorable
Herbert Hoover, Jr.
Under Secretary of State
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Hoover:

We enclose a photostat of a letter from Dr. Henriette H. Voet of Borger, Texas, which recites the difficulties she experienced in traveling from Karachi, Pakistan to Istanbul, Turkey. Because she was Jewish and the Pan-American World Airways plane on which she was traveling was scheduled to stop at Basra, Iraq, the Airlines representative told Dr. Voet that her reservation would have to be cancelled because she would be arrested if found aboard the plane in Basra. As a result she was left stranded in Karachi before being finally rerouted by way of Abadan and Rome.

If Pan-American World Airways has correctly described the policy and practice of the Government of Iraq, then we believe it is appropriate for the State Department to make known to the Government of Iraq its strong displeasure over the treatment accorded American citizens of the Jewish faith traveling on American planes which may stop in Iraq.

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We are aware, of course, of the continuing concern of the State Department over the policy of some Middle Eastern countries, including Iraq, which refuse to grant visas to American Jews. We recognize, too, that under the rules of international law, each nation has the right to determine for itself to which persons it shall issue or deny visas. But it would seem to us that the practice of the Government of Iraq of refusing to permit American Jews who have no intention of visiting that country to travel on American planes which stop at Iraq on the way to their ultimate destination

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DIRECTOR
JUN 27 1955
OFFICE OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

684a.87/6-2355

goes beyond the commonly accepted rules of international law. The right of a sovereign nation to determine its own visa policies and to exclude any person it wishes would not appear to justify and sanction the harassment of foreign travelers who are not seeking admission to that country.

We should appreciate being advised of such action as you may take in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Herman Edelsberg

Herman Edelsberg

HE:tz

OF[illegible] PHONE 3634 RESIDENCE PHONE 3727

HENRIETTE H. VOET, M. D.
EYE SPECIALIST
114 WEST GRAND AVENUE
BORGER, TEXAS

May 21, 1955

The President,
B'nai Brith
Amarillo, Texas.

Dear Sir:

I wish to bring to your attention a flagrant case of religious discrimination against United States citizens abroad, in which the U.S. Government is a partner by permitting this intolerable condition to exist.

I recently made a trip abroad, in part visiting hospitals and attending medical conferences. On April 21, 1955 I wanted to board a Pan American plane in Karachi, Pakistan, scheduled to arrive in Istanbul, Turkey. The representative of Pan American World Airways asked about my religion. Upon my reply "Jewish", he told me that he had to cancel my reservation, since a card had to be filled out on which my religion had to be marked, for inspection of the Iraqi inspectors. This plane was scheduled to stop in Basra, Iraq, and the inspectors would not permit persons of the Jewish faith to stop. If found, they would be arrested, fined and deported to the place they came from.

The fact that I was left stranded in Karachi and had to be rerouted via Abadan and Rome is less important than the absence of any protection of the U.S. Government, which condones this discrimination by allowing American planes to stop in Iraq, a stop not required for refueling.

I believe that a strong protest should be made to our State Department, pointing out that the U.S. Government permits this vicious religious discrimination, which makes it impossible for a U.S. citizen of Jewish faith to travel with an American plane between two countries which are willing to receive him. There are many precedents, in which previous U.S. Governments did not want to be partners in such a discrimination. Thus, for instance, when it appeared in 1913 that Czarist Russia discriminated against American citizens of Jewish faith in Russia, the existing treaty between Russia and the United States was abbrogated. There are other precedents. However, the present administration not only condones this intolerable discrimina[illegible] but it actually encourages Iraq by sending it [illegible] paid for by the American taxpayers, including American citizens of Jewish faith.

I would greatly appreciate your help in bringing these facts to the attention of the appropriate authorities and especially, to the American Public.

Very truly yours,

SUITE 301
1003 K STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON 1, D. C.

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The Honorable
Herbert Hoover, Jr.
Under Secretary of State
Washington 25, D. C.

NE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Date: June 24, 1955

TO: NEA

The attached correspondence is forwarded to your office for the indicated action:

(1) Preparation of an appropriate reply for the Under Secretary's signature.

XXX (2) Preparation of a reply for your signature by reference from the Under Secretary (send a copy of your reply to the Office of the Under Secretary through S/S-RO - Mr. Gilman).

(3) Preparation of an appropriate reply for the signature of the Staff Assistant to the Under Secretary.

Action on this correspondence should be completed by

June 29

W. K. Scott
Director
Executive Secretariat

[illegible]

Attachment:
Ltr 6/23/53 from Herman Edelsberg to Mr. Hoover enclosing ltr Dr. Henriette Voet re difficulties in traveling in Middle East.

Special Instruction:

Salutation:

Complimentary close:

CC: S/S-RO Suspense File
Office of the Under Secretary

FC [illegible]
JDJ
GVA
~~[illegible]~~
~~NE~~

July 7 1955

In reply refer to
NEA:NE

Dear Mr. [illegible]:

I have your letter of June 23 addressed to the Under Secretary of State regarding the travel difficulties experienced by Mr. [illegible] of [illegible], Texas.

Travel restrictions placed upon American citizens of the Jewish faith [illegible]

The United States Government [illegible]

We appreciate your bringing this matter to our attention and [illegible]

Sincerely yours,

George V. Allen
Assistant Secretary

Mr. [illegible]
[illegible] Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith,
[illegible]
Washington [illegible], D. C.

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CS/HHH

NEA:NE:DDNewsom:apg
6/30/55

S/S-CR
JUL [illegible] 1955 PM

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Iraq - FA - [illegible] Relations

SECRET

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

NE - Mr. Hansen

TO : NEA - Mr. Allen

DATE: February 20, 1956

FROM : NE - Fraser Wilkins FW

SUBJECT: Enclosed Letter to the Secretary of the Treasury.

There is enclosed a letter prepared for your signature to the Secretary of the Treasury, asking that possible bank accounts in New York of certain Iraqis be observed to determine source of deposits (Tab A). This letter was drafted in response to Baghdad's telegram 720 (Tab B).

This request to the Treasury Department has been cleared with Mr. Crowe of L/NEA, who has discussed it informally with Mr. Elting Arnold, Chief of the Division of Foreign Exchange in Treasury.

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686A.87/2-2056

CS/W

Enclosures:

1. (Tab A) - Letter to the Secretary of Treasury. 686a.87/2-2056
2. (Tab B) - Baghdad's telegram 720.

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Encl 36

NEA:NE:NOHallett:apg

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All other copies destroyed 2/14/56 apg

3 8 1 A

In reply refer to
NEA:NE

Dear Mr. Arnold:

In connection with our general observation of [illegible]

[illegible]

The Department would, first, like to obtain confirmation, for its own information, of the existence of these accounts and, if possible, of the source of deposits.

If it would appear that these accounts represent a substantial [illegible]

[illegible]

According to the [illegible] Minister, the Iraqi accounts and their addresses are as follows: [illegible]

Sincerely yours,

George V. Allen
Assistant Secretary

FW 886a 87/2-2056

Mr. [illegible]
[illegible] of Foreign [illegible],
[illegible] of the Treasury,
Washington 25, D. C.

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2/14/56

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

Document Must Be Returned to RM/R Central Files

DATE: July 10, 1956

SUBJECT: Israeli Reaction to Iraqi Intervention in Jordan

PARTICIPANTS:
Dr. Moussa Al-Shabandar, Ambassador of Iraq
David D. Newsom, NE

COPIES TO: NEA(1cc), NE(4cc), OLI(2cc), Baghdad, Tel Aviv

684A.87/7-1056 CS/T

Ambassador Al-Shabandar called to inquire about a statement on page 9 of The New York Times of July 10 to the effect that the Israeli Government had informed the American Ambassador that any move by Iraqi troops into Jordan would be followed by the movement of Israeli troops to the west bank of the Jordan River.

Mr. Newsom replied that this was not an accurate report. He said that the Israelis had frequently taken the position that if Iraq moved into Jordan it would change the situation. Mr. Newsom said that the Israelis had not amplified this statement, as far as he knew.

(On July 11, Mr. Newsom informed Dr. Pachachi of the Iraq Embassy that Israel had issued a categorical denial of The New York Times report.)

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JUL 24 1956

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NEA:NE:DDNewsom:apg
7/10/56

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Control: 507
Rec'd: October 1, 1956
4:26 p.m.

FROM: Jerusalem

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 91, October 1, 8 p.m.

NIACT

SENT DEPARTMENT 91; REPEATED INFORMATION NIACT BAGHDAD 1, NIACT AMMAN 68, LONDON 4, PARIS 6, TEL AVIV 62.

FROM AMBASSADOR LAWSON

In pursuance Department instruction, I met with Ben Gurion this evening. On key question Israel response movement token Iraqi troops into Jordan, Ben Gurion said: "If Iraq sends troops to other side of the Jordan River, we will do nothing. If they send to our borders, that is different."

Later in conversation he confirmed foregoing by saying:

"The US can help by advising them to keep their (Iraqi troops on other side (of the Jordan). We will do nothing. They should not cross the Jordan."

In subsequent message, I shall report in detail our conversation which was interesting and, I believe, productive.

COLE

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AB:MAA

Note: Mr. Bergus (NE) informed 5:30 p.m. 10/1/56 FMH

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Control: 1220
Rec'd: October 2, 1956
1:40 p.m.

FROM: Amman

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 296, October 2, 11 a.m.

1-14

SENT DEPARTMENT 296, REPEATED INFORMATION BAGHDAD 75, JERUSALEM 30, LONDON 73, PARIS 45, TEL AVIV 49

Re Jerusalem's 91 to Department.

In event Iraqi troops should be forthcoming to Jordan, and in event I am requested suggest they not (repeat not) cross Jordan river, would appreciate background on security Ben Gurion's assurances. In view his past record is such statement binding on Cabinet or Government of Israel?

MALLORY

SW:JS/12

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Control: 7367
Rec'd: October 12, 1956
1:16 p.m.

FROM: Tel Aviv

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 364, October 12

file

1956 OCT 12 PM 2 22

NEA MESSAGE CENTER

NIACT

SENT DEPARTMENT 364, REPEATED INFORMATION AMMAN 102, LONDON [illegible], BAGHDAD 37

Spokesman Israel Foreign Ministry today issued following statement at approximately 12:30 p.m. local time:

"Israel has no armistice agreement with Iraq.

"Iraq took active part in Arab War against Israel in 1948, but refused categorically to conclude separate armistice. Bulk of Iraqi forces had operated against Israel from territory of Jordan. Accordingly, with Iraqs consent armistice agreement between Israel and Jordan provided that Iraqi forces were to be withdrawn, as in fact they were.

"Iraqs entry into Jordan now would undermine armistice agreement with that country in far reaching respects. It would mean that she was again sending military forces into territory of state adjacent to Israel - and this after deliberately refusing to conclude armistice with Israel.

"Her action would be direct threat to security of Israel and to validity of Israeli-Jordan armistice agreement.

"It would, accordingly, jeopardize status quo in area.

"Iraqs reported intention is to be seen as move in her expansionist drive towards Mediterranean, which has traditionally been basic objective of Iraqi policy."

LAWSON

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Control: 13526
Rec'd: April 20, 1957
7:41 p.m.

FROM: Tel Aviv

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1233, April 19, 11 p.m.

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 1233, REPEATED INFORMATION PRIORITY BAGHDAD 79, AMMAN 226, BEIRUT 228, CAIRO 241, DAMASCUS 169, LONDON 258, PARIS 218, USUN 98.

Does increase Iraqi troops at H-3 from 4000 to two brigades with third standing by (Baghdad's 1733 and 1734 to Department) destroy basis my statement to Ben Gurion (EMBTEL 1226) that "numbers Iraqi troops involved and Iraqi assurances make it abundantly clear they pose no threat to Israel?"

I emphasized smallness of force but did not of course state size of build-up to Ben Gurion or later to Foreign Minister. I trust there will be no reason for GOI to lose confidence in US as agent transmitting assurances from Iraqi government.

LAWSON

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684A.87/4-1957

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Control: 5138
Rec'd: May 9, 1957
1:26 a.m.

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FROM: Tel Aviv

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1304, May 8, 4 p.m.

SENT DEPARTMENT 1304, BAGHDAD 86, REPEATED INFORMATION AMMAN 241, BEIRUT 251, CAIRO 255, DAMASCUS 183, LONDON 272, PARIS 230, USUN 102.

Reference EMBTEL 1233 to Department; Baghdad's 1710, 1737 and 1756 to Department.

I am very much disturbed at new evidence Iraqi troops now stationed or about to be stationed at H-3 may be double number originally suggested in Baghdad's 1710 on which I based my assurances to GOI that "numbers of Iraqi troops involved and Iraqi assurances make it abundantly clear they pose no threat to Israel"

Am I correct in assuming Baghdad USARMA's CX-26 means that with Moslem holidays past, troop strength at H-3 is now over 8,000?

LAWSON

HC/16

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INCOMING TELEGRAM 59 *Department of State*

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Control: [illegible]55
Rec'd: May 12, 1957
6:32 a.m.

FROM: [illegible]

TO: Secretary of State

NO: [illegible], May [illegible], [illegible]

[illegible]

SENT DEPARTMENT [illegible] REPEATED INFORMATION PRIORITY AMMAN [illegible], PRIORITY BEIRUT [illegible], PRIORITY CAIRO 167, PRIORITY DAMASCUS 1[illegible]0, PRIORITY [illegible] PARIS 90, PRIORITY TEL AVIV [illegible]

[illegible] checked with him once more [illegible] strength [illegible] at [illegible] 130[illegible], May 8).

There are [illegible], [illegible] said, two battalions and one brigade. [illegible] added about 1[illegible] days ago, as was reported [illegible] EMBTEL 1819, April 30, is eventually to replace the battalion that has been at H-3 all along.

[illegible] these [illegible] are at full strength (EMBTEL 17[illegible]6, April [illegible]) there are therefore at present a maximum of [illegible],[illegible] [illegible]

"These troops", [illegible] said with emphasis, "whether they remain at H-3 or are called into Jordan, are for defense and not (repeat not) offense."

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~~AIR POUCH~~
PRIORITY

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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MAY 15 1959

787.00/4-2459

FROM : AmEmbassy TEL AVIV 663 DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. April 24, 1959

REF : Memorandum of Conversation, dated March 30, 1959, entitled "Recent Developments in the Middle East," between Messrs. Guy Toffin (French Embassy), Stuart Rockwell (NE) and William Eagleton (NE)

For Dept. Use Only 67	ACTION NE-14	INFO	DEPT. [illegible] 2, RC-8 EUR 5 IO 4
	REC'D 5/5		OTHER OCB-12 USIA-10 [illegible]

SUBJECT: Israel's Attitude towards Developments in Iraq

During a recent visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the reporting officer inquired of the Deputy Director of the United States Division, Pinhas Eliav, whether there had been in the last few weeks any particular modification in the views of the Israel Government (GOI) towards developments in Iraq. This question was motivated by the statement of M. Toffin reported in the Memorandum of Conversation above that Israel's views towards developments in Iraq had changed as a consequence of Mrs. Meir's visit to Washington.

Mr. Eliav replied that there had been no substantial change. The Government of Israel was aware of the communist infiltration into the Kassem Government, but the information available was too confused to indicate the extent of this influence or the rapidity of its growth. It continued to be the opinion of the Israel Government that Kassem genuinely was seeking to maintain an independent Iraq and that, in all probability, he still had a sufficient area of maneuverability and control to prevent a communist take-over. Mr. Eliav then reiterated the usual Israel plea that Kassem should not be considered completely "washed up" from the Western point of view and that he was deserving of some sort of assistance or consideration as a token of the West's goodwill and understanding.

COMMENT: Not long ago, Eliav laughingly remarked that knowing a great variety of subjects would be raised when he was visited by representatives of the American Embassy, he endeavored to keep himself informed on the latest developments in Israel's foreign policy and thinking in many fields. This has been found to be substantially correct. If Mrs. Meir has appreciably changed her views vis-a-vis Iraq, as M. Toffin stated, they have not been communicated to the lower levels of the Foreign Ministry.

It might be said that GOI has never discounted the potential danger of communist infiltration in Iraq. It has continued to insist, however, that Nasser is the greatest threat to stability and peace in the area, and that so far as the Government of Israel is concerned it would prefer to go along with Kassem, as yet an unknown factor, than Nasser, a known evil. These views were restated by Mrs. Meir as

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Desp. No. [illegible]
From TEL AVIV

recently as April 16 during an exchange of views with the American Chargé d'Affaires ad interim (Embassy despatch 661 of April [illegible]).

For the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.:

William Bruce Lockling

William Bruce Lockling
First Secretary of Embassy

Department please pass to Baghdad, Cairo, London, and Paris.

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Control: 7311
Rec'd: November 12, 1959
2:36 P.M.

FROM: Baghdad

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1163, November 11, 4 P.M.

MESSAGE NEA CENTER
11/13/59

SENT DEPARTMENT 1163; REPEATED INFORMATION AMMAN 201, BEIRUT 530, CAIRO 263, DAMASCUS 215, JIDDA 59, LONDON 210, TEL AVIV 38, BASRA UNNUMBERED.

Foreign Minister Hashim Jawad made statement November 10 refuting unnamed Cairo newspaper's "quotation" of Israeli paper, HAOLAM (sic). HAOLAM allegedly reported that Jawad while at UN recently in New York had told its editor "the principle of Eastern Federation should include all non-Arab, semitic countries such as Israel." (Embassy not clear regarding meaning "Eastern federation".)

Jawad's long refutation of Israeli paper's claim is worth noting, especially in view current interest new approach to come grips with Arab-Israeli problems.

Jawad, generally considered by Embassy a moderate in Iraqi political life, obviously felt compelled to reply categorically in strong anti-Zionist terms. Accused of taking conciliatory line with Israel, Jawad reacted publicly in typical Arab politician's fashion by denying it and by restating standard Arab lines on Israel.

Jawad said that it "common knowledge . . . that we, the Arabs, did not and never will permit outselves to talk to the Zionists on any issue and not even come close to them, irrespective of their nationality."

"Regardless of any differences" between Arabs, Jawad continued, "we will remain faithful to our mission towards Palestine."

Jawad referred "Egyptian newspaper" to his record in the common Palestine question and to fact he was "praised by Egyptian

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newspapers" at time of 1956 attack on Egypt.

He held that though "some of Arabs developed differences between themselves by go ceby * circumstances in some aspects of their present political life", they are united in their devotion to "freedom of every Arab State", "working for liberation entire Arab homeland" and in "endeavoring to deliver Palestine from the Zionists".

The Foreign Minister ended his statement with declaration that "Iraqis part of Arab nation" and that "we shall proceed to attain objectives of Arab nation as one fraternal and solid block."

Jawad recently stated privately to British Ambassador (EMBTEL 1141) need Iraq find rapport with UAR. Although November 10 statement, coming from moderate Jawad, is disappointingly severe in its references to "imperialism," and attacks on Zionism, there is in it none of venom typical of Baghdad newspapers and radio on subject of UAR. It is not an angry reply, but rather one of patient explanation to reassure Arab brothers in UAR that Iraqis ESDVQSMKRIFQL * hostility towards Zionists.

Negatively, Jawad's reaffirmation of diehard Arab views vis-a-vis Palestine question gives meagre reason hope that Iraqis ready to cooperate in any constructive approach to outstanding issues between Arabs and Israel. (Embtel 1101).

JERNEGAN.

DL-2

* As received. Will service upon request.

Central File: Decimal File 684A.87, International Political Relations. Other International Relations., Political Relations Between Palestine And Iraq., June 23, 1955 - November 12, 1959. June 23, 1955 - November 12, 1959. MS Palestine and Israel: Records of the U.S. Department of State, 1945-1959: Records of the Department of State Relating to the Foreign Affairs of Palestine-Israel (Decimal File Numbers 684, 684A, and 611), 1955-1959. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com/apps/doc/SC5111242863/GDSC?u=cale23906&sid=GDSC&xid=d035b11b&pg=1. Accessed 27 Apr. 2021.